

History & Origins of the Greenway Neighborhood

The Augustus Fanno farmhouse is located off Hall Boulevard on Creekside Drive, just east of the Hall-Greenway intersection. This historic home has been restored by the Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District.

The Greenway Neighborhood Association is host to the Fanno Creek Greenway trail, “a 15-mile multi-use paved trail for walkers, runners, and bicyclists. When completed, it will provide the first regional multi-use trail on the west side of the Portland region, linking existing parks and recreation facilities. Weaving through five cities and two counties, it will be one of the premier urban greenway trails in the Portland metropolitan region. When complete, the recreational and commuter trail will take people from the shores of the Willamette River in Southwest Portland to the confluence of Fanno Creek and the Tualatin River” (Madden, 2002).

Augustus Fanno settled in Beaverton in 1847.

Neighbors began to arrive soon enough, however, and Augustus pointed many early settlers of what is now Beaverton, Oregon, toward the land they claimed. The major roads in the area are named for these early neighbors, including Hall Boulevard, Denney Road, and Scholls Ferry Road. Rebecca Jane Denney emigrated from Indiana in 1849 with her brothers, Thomas and Robert. Like Augustus, Rebecca was a teacher; Augustus and Rebecca were married on April 17, 1851. In his later years, Augustus turned his attention toward raising onions. Onions were valued not only as food, but medicinally, as well. Legend has it that he made big money by being the first to ship onions to Alaska during the Yukon Gold Rush. In the 1850s, the Denney brothers built a sawmill, and Augustus donated land from his claim for the construction of a school and church built of lumber from the Denneys’ mill. In 1859 or ‘60, Augustus finally built a fashionable home for Rebecca. He built the house “double strength”, reinforcing it to resist the windstorms that occasionally rattle the Willamette Valley and it remains standing to this day. Nearby are three of four “American Freedom Trees” Augustus planted in 1876 to mark the centennial of the Declaration of Independence. The Fanno farmhouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984 (End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, 1998).

The Fanno Creek Greenway trail has historical significance as the lifeblood of Beaverton’s settlers and still remains as a beautiful asset to the City.